MARVEL 89 .com

EXILES

BEDARD
CALAFIORE
McKENNA

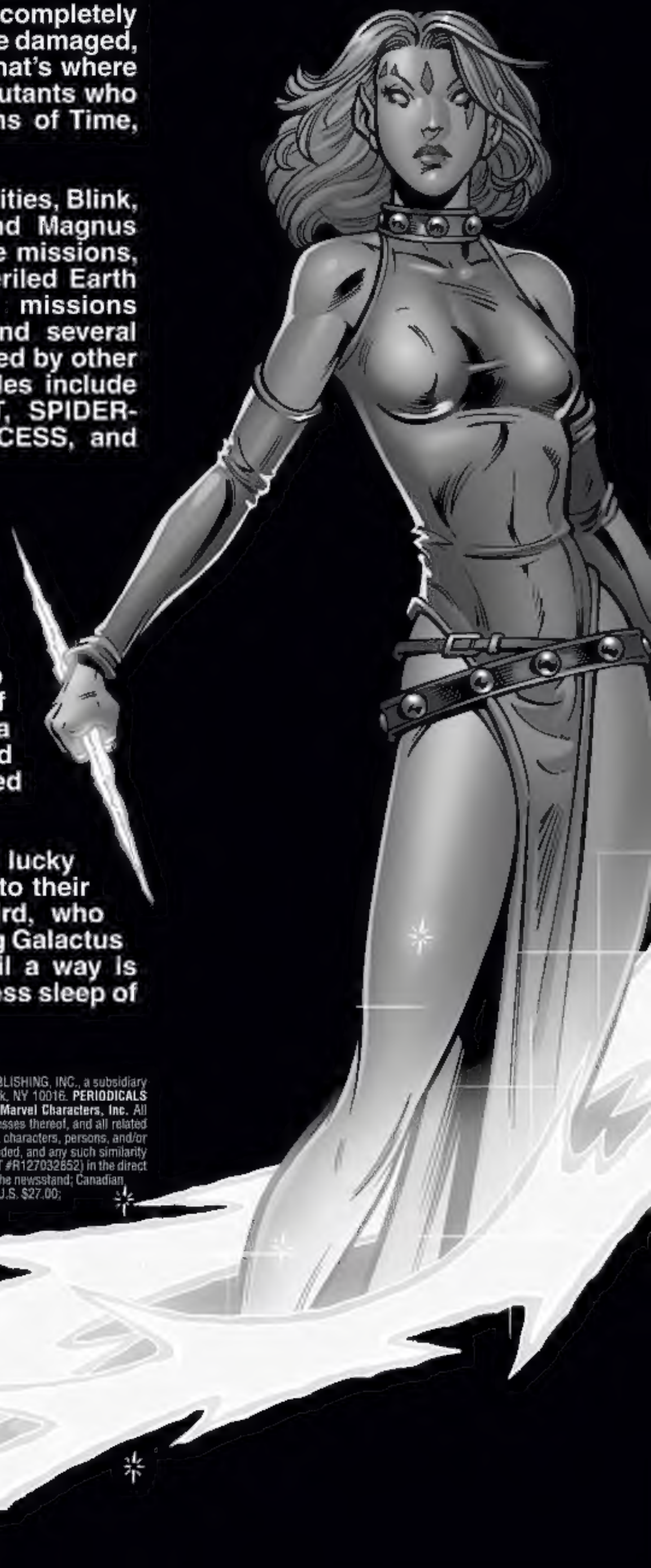
Previously in EXILES:

Parallel universes. Alternate realities. Some are like the world we know, others completely different. And a few tragic realities are damaged, twisted and downright dangerous. That's where you'll find the EXILES -- a team of mutants who repair the broken links in the chains of Time, restoring the cosmic balance.

Plucked from their own separate realities, Blink, Mimic, T-Bird, Nocturne, Morph, and Magnus were forced to undertake impossible missions, risking their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. Sometimes these missions called for the ultimate sacrifice, and several Exiles fell in battle, only to be replaced by other unwilling heroes. Currently, the Exiles include BLINK, SABRETOOTH, LONGSHOT, SPIDER-MAN 2099, MORPH, POWER PRINCESS, and HEATHER HUDSON.

Eventually, they turned the tables and took over the Crystal Palace – an observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities in the Multiverse. They found out their missions were actually assigned to them by a group of insectoid alien scientists, and all of their fallen comrades were kept in a state of suspended animation, sealed into a crystal wall in what they termed the "Stasis Gallery."

All of those corpses and the few lucky survivors have since been returned to their home realities. All except for T-Bird, who received such critical injuries battling Galactus that he must be kept in stasis until a way is found to heal him. But in that deathless sleep of his, what dreams may come...?



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EARTH #27536
CONEY ISLAND

NEVER MIND THE SINISTER SIX! JUST COMPLETE THE MISSION!

FOUND HIM, SABRETOOTH!

BLOONK

DON'T WORRY, MISTER JAMESON, I'LL--HUH?

NICE ONE, MYSTERIO! SHE FELL FOR IT!

SH-ZAK!

CLARICE!!!

KRESH

THIS ONE'S NOT AN ILLUSION!

BLINK'S *DOWN*. WE HAVE TO GET *OUT* OF HERE...

SLISSH

=MMPH=

THE CRYSTAL PALACE, OUTSIDE SPACE AND TIME...

ELECTRO NAILED HER WITH--

I SAW. LET'S GET HER TO THE INFIRMARY.

THIS FLAMIN' JOB AIN'T WORTH IT!

EIGHT YEARS FROM NOW, THE JONAH JAMESON YOU JUST RESCUED SAVES EVERY MUTANT ON EARTH FROM A C.I.A. BIO-WEAPON.

WELL HE DIDN'T DO CLARICE NO FAVORS!

BLINK WILL RECOVER, WILL SHE NOT?

WITH OUR TRACK RECORD...?

...WE'LL BE LUCKY IF SHE DOESN'T END UP IN THAT WALL NEXT TO **T-BIRD!**

SHOCK **THAT!** I'D RATHER BE SIX FEET UNDER THAN **BRAIN-DEAD** IN PURGATORY.

HE'S **NOT** BRAIN-DEAD, SPIDEY. HEATHER DETECTED **ALPHAWAVES** IN HIS FRONTAL CORTEX.

YOU MEAN HE'S **DREAMING** IN THERE...?

"I HATE TO THINK WHAT *NIGHTMARE* HE'S BEEN STUCK IN ALL THIS TIME..."

DIE, YOU MONSTER! WHY WON'T YOU DIE?!

WALLFLOWER

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"MONSTER"...?

HA!

WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE *REAL* MONSTER IS!

YOU TURNED ME INTO THIS, *APOCALYPSE!*

YESSS... THAT'S IT...LET IT *OUT...*

SHOW ME THE FACE OF *DESTRUC-TION!*

GRAAHHHH!

-URK-
BUT NEVER FORGET THAT YOU BELONG TO APOCALYPSE! YOU...
...AND ALL THAT YOU BEGET!
NOCTURNE...?
T.J.. ANSWER ME!
JOHN..I'M SORRY...I TRIED TO FIGHT...
DID YOU REALLY THINK MY GREATEST CREATION, MY HORSEMAN OF WAR, COULD SIRE A CHILD WITHOUT ME FINDING OUT?

WELL, I'VE GOT HER STABILIZED, BUT IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.

HOW'D A CHUMP LIKE *ELECTRO* GET THE DROP ON *HER?*

SHE'S *EXHAUSTED*, HEATHER. WE'VE RUN BACK-TO-BACK MISSIONS FOR *WEEKS!*

CAN'T BE HELPED, POWER PRINCESS. A WHOLE *STRING* OF REALITIES IS COLLAPSING LIKE *DOMINOES!* WE HAVE TO STAY AHEAD OF THE--

I *KNOW* THAT, SPIDER-MAN! I'M ONLY SAYING IT'S TAKING ITS *TOLL.*

WELL, WE CAN'T STOP *NOW.*

LET'S FIX THE REST OF 'EM WHILE CLARICE SLEEPS IT OFF.

DOCTOR O'HARA, CAN YOU *WAIT* A SEC? THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS.

ER... *SURE.*

OOH, I WANNA HEAR THIS, TOO!

SORRY, MORPH. THIS IS STRICTLY BETWEEN US *WHIZ KIDS.*

I GOT A DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, Y'KNOW. YOU'D THINK THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING...

SO WHAT'S ON YOUR NOGGIN?

IT'S MORPH. I'VE NOTICED SOME THINGS ABOUT H.M LATELY THAT AREN'T ADDING UP.

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT HE'S NOT REALLY MORPH AT ALL?

WELL, HE'S ROCK-SOLID ON M.SSIONS... NO SIGN HE SUSPECTS HE'S REALLY OUR WORST ENEMY TRAPPED IN MORPH'S BODY...

YOUR BRAINWASHER DID A THOROUGH JOB CONVINCING PROTEUS THAT HE IS MORPH, BUT HERE'S MY THING' WHAT WAS PROTEUS'S BIGGEST WEAKNESS?

METAL. HE COULDN T EVEN STAND TO TOUCH IT.

THAT'S WHY I MADE THE BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION HAT OUT OF FLEXERAMICS AND PLASTICS.

AND HOW DID WE FOOL PROTEUS INTO PUTT NG THAT HEADPIECE ON?

BLINK TELEPORTED IT INTO THAT ATLANTEAN CROWN HE STOLE.

"BINGO. H.S STOLEN METAL CROWN."

...

HOW DID I MISS THAT?

I KNOW. IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME, EITHER, UNTIL YESTERDAY.

MY ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT THE RULES ARE SIMPLY DIFFERENT WHILE PROTEUS IS IN MORPH'S BODY.

FOR STARTERS, HE ISN'T WASTING AWAY, LIKE HE DID EVERY TIME HE POSSESSED SOMEONE BEFORE.

SO MAYBE MORPH'S BODY ALSO INSULATES PROTEUS FROM CONTACT WITH METAL? I COULD CONDUCT SOME TESTS...

AFTER WE FINISH THIS STRING OF MISSIONS. FOR NOW, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

BUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT HE NEVER FINDS OUT WHO HE REALLY IS--

--BECAUSE IF PROTEUS IS IMMUNE TO METAL NOW, HE'S LOST HIS ACHILLES' HEEL...

HARD TO BELIEVE THIS LOVELY YOUNG CREATURE--

--CONSENTED TO YOUR TOUCH, MY HORSEMAN.

=NFF=

I CAN SCARCELY WAIT TO SEE WHAT A MONSTROUS LITTLE SOLDIER YOU'VE SPAWNED.

SHNNG

IN FACT, WHY WAIT AT ALL...?

NO...NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG...

HOW'D YOU EVER FIND US? WHERE... WHERE ARE MY FRIENDS?

FRIENDS ARE FOR THE WEAK, JOHN PROUDSTAR! YOURS WERE HOLDING YOU BACK.

THAT IS WHY I KILLED THEM ALL.

I...

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

ARRHH!

POW

SORRY WE'RE LATE, T-BIRD.

I TOLD 'EM TO TAKE THAT LEFT BACK IN ALBUQUERQUE!

YOU THINK ME SO EASILY VANQUISHED?

NO, APOCALYPSE...

YOU THINK YOURSELVES SAFE FROM MY WRATH?!

BLINNK

...YOU WON'T HURT T-BIRD-- OR ANYONE-- ANYMORE...

WRAMM

EARTH #27537
SERPENT SOCIETY H.Q.

GYAHH!

CHOMP

WHUD

SOMEBODY GET THAT *FREAK* OFF SPIDER-MAN!

CAN'T BELIEVE... WE'RE HAVING SUCH TROUBLE...WITH *THESE* GUYS...!

HONEY, YOU JUST STEPPED IN THE *WRONG* NEST OF VIPERS!

...UNNH...

SPIDER-MAN! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

WHAP

HATE TO TEL... YA, BUT WE KIL...ED THE REAL SPIDEY LAST YEAR!

AND HE PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT THAN ALL OF YOU TOGETHER!

OH, THAT DOES IT!

YOU GUYS HAVE A THING FOR SNAKES? FINE...

..I CAN DO SNAKES!

=AKH= DIAMONDBACK! SET OFF THE VENOMIZER!

=NFF= I CAN'T!

IMPOSSIBLE! YOU HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH TO DEFEAT ME! I MADE YOU!

NO, APOCALYPSE, YOU DIDN'T.

YOU MESSED ME UP AS MUCH AS YOU COULD, BUT YOU DIDN'T MAKE ME AT ALL...

...IF ANYTHING, I MADE YOU TOO IMPORTANT, TOO CENTRAL IN MY LIFE...

...BUT NOT ANYMORE!

I'M FREE OF YOU, APOCALYPSE...

...I'M FREE!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT, JOHN?

I...

I'M NOT SURE, T.J., AND I DON'T THINK I EVEN CARE.

I'M JUST TIRED OF BEING DEFINED BY WHAT HE DID TO ME.

YOU AND I ARE BRINGING A NEW LIFE INTO THE WORLD.

IT'S TIME I STOP DRAGGING APOCALYPSE AROUND WITH ME, IF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.

YEAH.

YEAH, I THINK IT D--

--OWWWW...

OH, BOY. IS THAT...?

YEP. T.J., YOUR WATER JUST BROKE

NOW?! BUT...WE'LL NEVER FIND A DOCTOR IN TIME!

EARTH #27538
THE HELLFIRE CLUB
NEW YORK

NO MORE CASUALTIES, EXILES! HEATHER'S RUNNIN' OUTTA BEDS IN THE INFIRMARY!

AT LEAST IT'S FOUR AGAINST FOUR THIS TIME.

GIVE ME A MINUTE, AND I WILL MAKE THAT THREE!

YOU'RE CERTAINLY TOUGH, MY FRIEND, BUT I'M DOUBLING YOUR MASS EVERY SECOND. YOU WILL FALL!

SNAG

FINE BY ME, TUBBY...

...'CUZ I'M PULL N' OUT YER GUTS WHEN I DO!

=NFF= IS THAT ALL YOU CAN *DO*, WOMAN? JUST STAND THERE AND *HOLD* ME?

CONSIDERING THAT *HITTING* YOU WILL ONLY MAKE YOU *STRONGER*? YES. THIS IS ALL I *NEED* DO.

THEY *KNOW* ALL OUR TALENTS, SEBASTIAN! IT'S TIME TO CUT OUR LOSSES!

SORRY, EMMA. WE *KEEP* YOU HERE ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES, AND IT'S *MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.*

WHO *ARE* YOU PEOPLE?

IF I HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY TIME WE'VE BEEN *ASKED* THAT--

OH, NEVER MIND, I'LL SEE FOR *MYSELF!*

...WHAT...? SOMETHING...*ODD* INSIDE YOU...

...SOMETHING *POWERFUL*... HIDDEN...LOCKED AWAY...BUT STILL WITHIN *REACH*...

NO!

THUNK

!

LONGSHOT?! DID YOU JUST KILL HER?

MORPH?! SPEAK TO ME...

YOU WORRY ABOUT THE WRONG PERSON, ZARDA!

OCH, WHAT D'YE WANT ME TAE SAY...?

THE INFIRMARY
6 MINUTES LATER...

SO, DID WE STOP THE "DOMINOES"?

YEAH. IT ONLY TOOK THREE WEEKS AND TWENTY MISSIONS, BUT THAT CASCADE OF FAILING REALITIES IS FINALLY CONTAINED.

GOOD. I HOPE WE CAN TAKE A BREATHER BEFORE THE NEXT JOB. I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKY.

AND WHAT ABOUT *MORPH?*

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

LONGSHOT SEVERED THE WHITE QUEEN'S PSI-PROBE BEFORE SHE *UNDID* HIS CONDITIONING, BUT I'M GIVING HIM A *B-MOD BOOSTER* JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SPIKE TO THE HEAD DIDN'T *KILL* HER.

JUST A *LUCKY* THROW. YOU KNOW ME...

I HEARD HIM SPEAK IN THAT *SCOTTISH ACCENT* AGAIN FOR A MOMENT. ARE YOU CERTAIN...?

HONESTLY, ZARDA? I'M MAKING THIS UP AS I GO ALONG. I THINK WE *ALL* ARE...

...MAYBE WE'LL HAVE TO ***RE-CONDITION*** HIM ON A REGULAR BASIS. OR MAYBE IT WOULD BE SAFER JUST STICKING HIM IN THE ***STASIS WALL***, ALTHOUGH THAT SEEMS TOO CRUEL...

"I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ***MY*** TIME IN STASIS, BUT WHENEVER I SEE T-BIRD STILL STUCK IN THERE, I'M OVERCOME WITH ***GUILT.***"